

Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Mr Jason Lange Executive Director Office of Best Practice Regulation Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet 1 National Circuit BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Mr Lange

Regulation Impact Statement Addendum in relation to Telecommunications (Carriage Service Provider – Security Information) Determination 2022 and Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Conditions – Security Information) Declaration 2022

I am writing to submit the attached Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) Addendum prepared for the Protecting Critical Infrastructure and Systems of National Significance regulatory reforms for assessment. The Addendum specifically relates to the making of two instruments under the Telecommunications Act 1997 (the Tel Act), and was prepared on the basis of advice from staff in your office.

The Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018 (SOCI Act) was amended in December 2021, introducing new positive security obligations for many sectors, including:

- giving the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs certain information about critical infrastructure assets to be included in a register; and
- telling the Australian Signals Directorate if a cyber-security incident has a relevant impact on a critical infrastructure asset.

In order to avoid regulatory duplication and provide clarity for the telecommunications industry, the Australian Government decided that the obligations will be introduced through mechanisms under the the Tel Act. The Instruments provide that mechanism by making a carrier licence condition declaration and a carriage service provider determination, authorised under section 63 and section 99 of the Tel Act respectively.

I note that the instruments address the same problem definition and have considered the same policy options as the RIS for the Protecting Critical Infrastructure and Systems of National Significance

regulatory reforms. I note further that the impacts of regulation are also consistent with that contained in the aforementioned RIS as noted in the attached addendum. I can confirm that these impacts were provided to the Minister for Communication before she made these instruments to align the telecommunications sector with the SOCI Act obligations that commenced on 8 July 2022 for other sectors.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Tristan Kathage, Assistant Secretary Telecommunications Markets Policy on 6271 1951.

Yours sincerely

MACE

Matthew Brine Acting Deputy Secretary, Communications and Media Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. 29 September 2022